

CHAPTER 71
AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT

AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONES

A. Class A - Aesthetic Management Zone

1. Criteria -- aesthetic management considerations predominate. These are areas where intensive public use occurs because of scenic or aesthetic attractions.
2. Objective -- develop and maintain the forest environment to its greatest scenic potential for public enjoyment.
3. Examples
 - a) Park and recreation areas, including access routes.
 - b) Special use trails.
 - c) Lakes, rivers and streams that have significant value for water-based recreation.
 - d) Highways and roads with heavy to medium use, and roads where the use is for the specific purpose of enjoying scenery.

B. Class B - Aesthetic Management Zone

1. Criteria -- no one use predominates. The public use is such that no one value can at all times be considered as the most important. However, because of the intensity and variety of uses, scenic attractiveness must be maintained.
2. Objective -- manage these areas using normal integrated resource management concepts but maintain aesthetic values.
3. Examples
 - a) Roads with light to medium use where the majority of traffic is the result of some use of the forest other than for scenic beauty.
 - b) Lakes and streams that do not have significant value for water-based recreation.

C. Class C - Aesthetic Management Zones

1. Criteria -- normal integrated resource management concepts apply. Any significant public presence is likely to occur only as a result of a specific use of the forest.
2. Objective -- optimize timber production but using sound integrated resource management concepts. Do not overlook natural opportunities to maintain or enhance biological diversity or scenic quality.
3. Examples -- the majority of the forest is normally zoned Class C.

D. Class D - Special Forest Use Zone

1. Criteria -- designated special use areas.
2. Objective -- manage these areas as outlined in the property's master plan.
3. Examples -- natural, scientific, wild river, and wilderness areas.

STAND TREATMENT METHODS IN AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONES

Wherever possible, aesthetic management should be integrated into commercial logging operations. However, due to the variety of conditions and the special attention demanded in the treatments, it is anticipated that separate small sale contracts or permits will be needed to accomplish the management objective. The development of small-scale jobbers who are interested in and properly equipped to handle aesthetic zone cuttings would be the ideal. Regardless of the method used, certain principles of stand treatment should be followed.

The stand treatments listed below are intended to:

- Maintain aesthetic zones in a healthy, forested, and aesthetically pleasing condition.
- Reduce damage to residual trees.
- Reduce visible evidence of logging.
- Reduce soil erosion.

A. Logging Control

1. All hardwood logging should be done when residual hardwoods are leafless to reduce felling damage and to eliminate persistent foliage in the tops.
2. All tops should be treated so that all slash is within 18 inches of the ground. This may require disposal effort by the sale contractor or by force account.
3. No tops will be left in ditches, on shoulders, or in streams or lakes.
4. Landings for forest products should not be permitted in the aesthetic zone. No debarking equipment should be allowed to operate within sight of traveled thoroughfares.
5. Logging road entrances to public roads should be constructed in a manner that will not detract from scenic values. Entrances should be at an oblique angle rather than perpendicular to public roads, and they should curve so as to screen the road.
6. All skid trails should be well-spaced and on the contour, and lead away from the aesthetic zone. Skidding to public roadsides should be discouraged.
7. Skidding equipment must be of a type approved for use in aesthetic zones. Excessively large equipment that will cause damage should not be allowed. Skidding must be done in a careful manner to protect residual trees.

B. Non-commercial Cuttings

Treatments of a non-commercial nature should be made in a manner that will enhance aesthetic values. This means that slash, cut trees, brush, etc., should be within 18 inches of the ground. Stump heights should be low. Saplings should not be severed high above the ground. Salvage for firewood is encouraged where such removal will not have a detrimental impact on scenic values.

Herbicide treatment should be avoided in aesthetic zones. Although stump treatment to prevent sprouting may be desirable at times, mechanical treatment methods are recommended.

C. Pruning

All pruning should be done according to acceptable standard practices. However, pruning to various heights should be considered to prevent creation of an artificial stand appearance.

D. Plantings

Tree and shrub plantings can be used to screen unsightly dumps, borrow pits, gravel pits, power and gas line right-of-ways, etc. Underplantings and interplantings can often be used to develop long range solutions to aesthetic problems. Plantings should be adapted to the site and performed according to good forestry practices.

Large block type plantings of a single species that create a monotype culture within an area should be discouraged. Plantations should be established to achieve a more aesthetically pleasing appearance and to provide for added diversity of type. Planting should be accomplished by varying the direction of the rows or contouring to create a more natural appearance. Planting on the contour and use shallow furrows where practical. When planting adjacent to a major roadway, the first rows should be parallel to the roadway to meet aesthetic concerns and provide game cover.